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Amendment of claims (article 34)

1. An image reproduction device which displays an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality 5 of image files with main image information and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least the description as to whether the automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said 10 image files are reproduced, the device comprising:

a read unit which reads each file information stored in said image file storage medium;

a control unit which performs a control operation in such a manner that said read unit reads from said image 15 file storage medium a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file;

an image development unit which develops the image file read by said read unit;

20 a storage element into which the image data developed by said image development unit are written; and

an image display unit which reads and displays a list of the thumbnail images written in said storage element.

25 2. An image reproduction device according to claim 1,

further comprising:

an input unit which selectively determines whether
only the thumbnail image of the image file which contains
the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic
reproduction file read by said read unit is displayed or
5 the thumbnail images of all the image files stored in said
image file storage medium are displayed regardless of the
automatic reproduction information of said automatic
reproduction file, wherein

10 said control unit performs the control operation in
such a manner that the thumbnail image selected by said
input unit is read from said image file storage medium.

3. An image reproduction device according to claim 1,
15 wherein

said storage element holds dummy image data
corresponding to a thumbnail image, and

said control unit performs the control operation in
such a manner that a dummy image is read from said storage
20 element in place of the thumbnail image of the image file
which contains the description of non-automatic
reproduction in said automatic reproduction file read by
said read unit.

25 4. An image reproduction device according to claim 3,

further comprising:

an input unit which selectively determines whether said thumbnail image is displayed as a dummy image or as a thumbnail image, wherein

5 said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that a thumbnail image is read from said image file storage medium in a case where the thumbnail image is selected by said input unit, and a dummy image is read from said storage element in a case where the dummy image is selected by said input unit.

10 5. (Amended) An image reproduction device according to claim 1, wherein

15 said control unit reads thumbnail images of all the image files from said image file storage medium, and
 said image development unit develops the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file read by said read unit as a normal image and, also,
 20 develops a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize.

25 6. An image reproduction device according to claim 5,

wherein

said image development unit comprises:

a file extension unit which is supplied with the
image file information stored in said image file storage
5 medium to extend the image file;

a write address generating unit which generates a
write address for said storage element; and

a read address generating unit which generates a read
address for said storage element, and

10 when developing the thumbnail image of the image file
which contains the description of non-automatic
reproduction in the information of said automatic
reproduction file, the write address for said storage
element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a
15 predetermined rule by said write address generating unit.

7. An image reproduction device according to claim 5,

wherein

said image development unit comprises:

20 a file extension unit which is supplied with the
image file information stored in said image file storage
medium to extend the image file;

a write address generating unit which generates a
write address for said storage element; and

25 a read address generating unit which generates a read

address for said storage element, and

when developing the thumbnail image of the image file
which contains the description of non-automatic
reproduction in the information of said automatic
5 reproduction file, the read address for said storage
element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a
predetermined rule by said read address generating unit.

8. An image reproduction device according to claim 5,

10 wherein

said image development unit comprises:

a file extension unit which is supplied with the
image file information stored in said image file storage
medium to extend the image file;

15 a write address generating unit which generates a
write address for said storage element; and

a read address generating unit which generates a read
address for said storage element, and

when developing the thumbnail image of the image file
20 which contains the description of non-automatic
reproduction in the information of said automatic
reproduction file, the write address for said storage
element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a
predetermined rule by said write address generating unit
25 and, also, the read address for said storage element is

generated discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said read address generating unit.

9. (Amended) An image reproduction device according
5 to claim 3, wherein

said storage element holds first and second different dummy image data as said dummy images, and

10 said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that the first dummy image is read from said storage element in place of the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file and, where the thumbnail image of the image file is not stored in said image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file at the time of reading said thumbnail image from said image file storage medium, said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that said second dummy image is read from said storage element.

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10. An image reproduction device according to claim
9, wherein

said control unit performs a control operation in such a manner that after all the thumbnail images are
25 output on an arbitrary screen, a main image of the image

file having said thumbnail image not stored therein is read, and size of said main image is reduced to that of a thumbnail image, after which the image displayed as said second dummy image is replaced with said compressed

5 thumbnail image.

11. An image reproduction device according to claim 5, further comprising:

an input unit which selectively determines whether
10 display of a thumbnail image displayed as said image difficult to recognize is canceled or not, wherein
said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that in a case where display of an image developed by said input unit as an image difficult to
15 recognize is canceled, a thumbnail image corresponding to the image is read from said image file.

12. (Amended) An image reproduction device according to claim 9, further comprising:

20 an input unit for selectively determining whether the display of said dummy image of the thumbnail image displayed as said dummy image is canceled or not, wherein
said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that in a case where the display of said
25 dummy image is canceled by said input unit, the thumbnail

image corresponding to the image is read from said image file.

13. (Deleted)

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14. An image reproduction method which displays a thumbnail image of an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic 10 reproduction file containing at least description of control information as to whether automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said image files are reproduced, comprising the steps of:

15 reading said automatic reproduction file information stored in said image file storage medium;
reading a thumbnail image information file of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file, from said 20 image file storage medium; and
displaying a list of said thumbnail images that have been read.

15. An image reproduction method according to claim 25 14, comprising:

after reading said automatic reproduction file information stored in said image file storage medium,

waiting an input for selectively determining whether only the thumbnail image of said image file which contains
5 the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file is displayed or the thumbnail images of all the image files stored in said image file storage medium are displayed regardless of said automatic reproduction file information; and

10 reading the thumbnail image selected from said image file storage medium.

16. An image reproduction method according to claim 14, comprising:

15 displaying the image file with the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a dummy image in place of the thumbnail image.

17. An image reproduction method according to claim 20 16, comprising:

waiting an input for selectively determining whether said thumbnail image is displayed as a dummy image or a thumbnail image; and

displaying the selected thumbnail image.

18. An image reproduction method according to claim
14, comprising:

displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which
contains the description of automatic reproduction in said
5 automatic reproduction file as a thumbnail image as it is;
and

developing a thumbnail image of an image file which
contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in
said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to
10 recognize and displaying the thumbnail image.

19. An image reproduction method according to claim
18, wherein

said developing step comprises:
15 extending an image file in response to an input of
said image file information stored in said image file
storage medium;
when displaying the thumbnail image of the image file
which contains the description of non-automatic
20 reproduction in said automatic reproduction file stored in
said image file storage medium, generating a write address
discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule for
a storage element into which the extended image data is
written; and

25 generating a read address sequentially when reading

the image data written in said storage element.

20. An image reproduction method according to claim
18, wherein

5 said developing step comprises:

extending an image file in response to an input of
said image file information stored in said image file
storage medium;

generating the write address to said storage element
10 sequentially; and

when displaying a thumbnail image of an image file
which contains the description of non-automatic
reproduction in the information of said automatic
reproduction file stored in said image file storage medium,
15 generating a read address for reading the image data
written in said storage element discontinuously in
accordance with a predetermined rule.

21. An image reproduction method according to claim
20 18, wherein

 said developing step comprises:

extending an image file in response to an input of
said image file information stored in said image file
storage medium;

25 when displaying a thumbnail image of an image file

which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file stored in said image file storage medium, generating a write address for the storage element into

5 which the extended image data is written discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule; and

generating a read address for reading the image data written in said storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule.

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22. (Amended) An image reproduction method according to claim 16, comprising:

holding first and second different dummy image data as said dummy images;

15 displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a first dummy image; and

displaying said second dummy image where a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file is read from said image file storage medium and not stored in said image file.

25 23. An image reproduction method according to claim

22, comprising:

outputting all the thumbnail images on an arbitrary screen;

reading a main image of an image file having no

5 thumbnail images therein; and

after minimizing a size of said main image to a size of said thumbnail image, replacing the image displayed as said second dummy image with said compressed thumbnail image.

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24. An image reproduction method according to claim 18, comprising:

waiting an input for selectively determining whether the display of said thumbnail image displayed as an image

15 difficult to recognize is canceled or not; and

when canceling the display of said image as an image difficult to recognize, replacing the thumbnail image corresponding to the image with a thumbnail image which is originally stored in said image file.

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25. (Amended) An image reproduction method according to claim 16, comprising:

waiting an input for selectively determining whether said dummy display of the thumbnail image displayed as said

25 dummy image is canceled or not; and

when the display as a dummy image is canceled,
replacing the thumbnail image corresponding to the image
with the thumbnail image which should originally be stored
in said image file.

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26. (Deleted)